

# INNOVATOR

Accelerating Innovation for the American Driving Experience

## Every Day Counts Offers Help in Managing Local Projects

Each year, roughly 15 percent of Federal-Aid Highway Program funds go to local public agencies. As part of the Every Day Counts initiative, the Federal Highway Administration is encouraging states to adopt three strategies to help cities and counties administer those projects successfully.

Using the strategies—stakeholder partnering, certification programs and consultant services flexibilities—can assure that local agencies follow federal regulations and guidelines and reduce the amount of oversight states need to provide. It can shorten project delivery time and lower project costs. And it can enable qualified local agencies to manage and own their projects.

The vision for the Every Day Counts team on locally administered Federal-Aid projects is to help states mainstream the three approaches, according to Project Management Engineer Michael Smith, FHWA's technical lead on the effort. "Our team will do this by advancing the knowledge, skills and tools within each of these areas," he said. "This is really about changing a business practice."

### Stakeholder Buy-In

Communication, coordination and cooperation are vital to implementing locally administered Federal-Aid projects successfully, as is clarity on federal requirements. Establishing stakeholder committees with federal, state and local representatives can aid the partnering effort among agencies and make it easier to get buy-in on projects. The committees encourage communication, review and refine project development policies and processes, and ensure appropriate training is provided.

One state using the stakeholder approach is Florida, which has a Local Agency Program Community of Practice with representatives from the Florida Department of Transportation,

the Local Technical Assistance Program, local agencies and FHWA. Among the group's tasks are identifying and evaluating highway project development and implementation processes for which streamlining is needed to ensure consistency across the state.



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## New Incentives Available for Innovation

The Federal Highway Administration now offers incentives for State Transportation Innovation Councils. FHWA Administrator Victor Mendez announced the program at a national meeting of STICS in September. Under the program, each STIC can obtain up to \$100,000 per year to support its innovation efforts under the Every Day Counts initiative. For details, contact the state FHWA Division at <https://fhwaapns.fhwa.dot.gov/foisp/keyFieldFederalAidDivisions.do>.

## Data Sharing Saves Time on Highway Projects

Time is money, as the saying goes, and geospatial data collaboration is helping highway agencies save time.

Geographic information system tools at many federal, state and local agencies are housed separately, which can make partnering on projects challenging. Through the Every Day Counts initiative, the Federal Highway Administration is promoting geospatial data collaboration—which makes tools, data and maps available on the Web—to facilitate information sharing among project delivery stakeholders and improve the quality and speed of project decisions.

Geospatial data collaboration can improve working relationships among organizations, simplify data sharing

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